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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As you know, Texas is facing severe drought conditions with seemingly no end in sight. As a result, many municipalities throughout Harris County and the Greater Houston Area have implemented mandatory drought contingency measures with various watering restrictions.

By ordinance, the City of Deer Park has three (3) steps of drought contingency. The first step calls for voluntary rationing, in an effort to reduce citywide water consumption by 10%. Step 2 calls for compulsory water reduction through restrictions on certain types of outdoor watering. Its goal is a 20% citywide consumption reduction. Finally, Step 3 aims to achieve a 30% citywide reduction through even greater water restrictions.

To date, the City of Deer Park has not experienced consumption levels high enough to trigger Step 1 of our Drought Contingency Plan. Step 1 is enacted when consumption reaches 6.8 million gallons of water per day for three (3) consecutive days. However, we are nearing this threshold rapidly. Overall usage has exceeded 7 million gallons per day during three (3) of the past five (5) days. This is compounded by a significant increase in water loss due to water main breaks caused by the shifting of dry soils.

The City of Deer Park strongly encourages all water customers to conserve water voluntarily. This may be accomplished many ways, including:

- ➡ Avoid overwatering your lawn.
- ➡ Water lawns early in the morning, or late in the evening, to avoid evaporation.
- ➡ With sprinkler systems, position sprinkler heads to avoid watering driveways, sidewalks, and streets.
- ➡ Check outdoor faucets, sprinkler heads, hoses, pipes, and swimming pools for leaks.
- ➡ Clean your driveway with a broom or blower, rather than cleaning with a hose.
- ➡ Increase your lawnmower height to 3" when mowing.
- ➡ Use a bucket of soapy water when washing your vehicle.
- ➡ Place a shut-off nozzle on the end of your garden hose.

Finally, report leaks in City water mains to [281-478-7270](tel:281-478-7270) during the business day, or [281-479-1511](tel:281-479-1511) after hours.

Thank you for your cooperation.